



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

For Immediate Release
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www.ides.illinois.gov

December Unemployment Unchanged at 8.7 Percent

Private Sector Job Growth Up 167,000 During the Recovery

CHICAGO – The December 2012 unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.7 percent, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The data is seasonally adjusted. One year ago, the December rate was 9.7 percent. Total payrolls decreased -7,600 in December 2012, nearly one-third of which were temporary layoffs with return-to-work dates in January, 2013.

“Illinois’ long-term trend is that of moderate growth punctuated by monthly up-and-down movement in the unemployment rate and the number of people working,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “This positive trend still is threatened by Congress and its continuing deliberations on the debt ceiling and the fiscal cliff.”

Illinois added +167,000 private sector jobs since January 2010 when job growth returned following nearly two years of consecutive monthly declines. Leading growth sectors are Professional and Business Services (+79,500); Education and Health Services (+43,600); and Manufacturing (+39,800). Government has lost the most jobs since January 2010, down -30,700.

In December 2012, the number of unemployed individuals increased +1,700 (+0.3 percent) to 576,600. Total unemployed declined -176,200 (-23.4 percent) since January 2010 when the state unemployment rate peaked at 11.4 percent.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work. Historically, the national unemployment rate is lower than the state rate. The state rate has been lower than the national rate only six times since January 2000.

More than 100,000 help-wanted ads are on Illinoisjoblink.com, the IDES employment website that links job seekers with employers. This no-cost career resource allows individuals to create multiple resumes that emphasize different talents and allows businesses to search for specific skills. The keyword matching technology increases the likelihood of a successful new hire. Illinoisjoblink.com emphasizes Illinois jobs, scrapes other job boards, and compares favorably to private efforts that cost hundreds of dollars for a single advertisement. No-cost HR recruitment services are available there and at (877) 342-7533.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	December 2012	November 2012	December 2011	3-Month Moving Avg.
Illinois	8.7%	8.7%	9.7%*	8.7%
U.S.	7.8%	7.8%*	8.5%*	7.8%
	* Revised			

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Non-farm Jobs – by Major Industry

Industry Title	December 2012*	November 2012**	December 2011**	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change	3-Month Moving Avg.	Change from Previous 3-Month Mov. Avg.
Total Nonfarm	5,717,900	5,725,500	5,676,000	-7,600	41,900	5,718,100	3,300
Mining	9,700	9,600	9,700	100	0	9,600	0
Construction	182,700	179,800	191,300	2,900	-8,600	182,500	-500
Manufacturing	593,400	598,700	576,900	-5,300	16,500	596,200	-900
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,145,900	1,145,100	1,142,200	800	3,700	1,141,400	4,200
Information	97,900	96,800	99,800	1,100	-1,900	97,200	200
Financial Activities	366,200	366,600	360,500	-400	5,700	366,500	-200
Professional and Business Services	859,300	863,500	838,500	-4,200	20,800	860,000	0
Educational and Health Services	865,200	866,300	857,100	-1,100	8,100	865,000	1,400
Leisure and Hospitality	534,800	534,200	519,800	600	15,000	535,100	500
Other Services	238,000	238,200	247,500	-200	-9,500	238,100	-100
Government	824,800	826,700	832,700	-1,900	-7,900	826,600	-1,100
	* Preliminary			** Revised			

Notes:

- Illinois monthly labor force, unemployed and unemployment rates for years 2007-2011 have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In February of each year, monthly labor force data for all states are revised to reflect updated Census population controls, seasonal factors, non-farm jobs and unemployment insurance claims inputs. Data were smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly household (CPS) survey. Comments and tables distributed in prior Illinois unemployment rate news release materials should be discarded because any analysis, including records, previously cited might no longer be valid.
- Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available. For not seasonally adjusted jobs data with greater industry detail, go to http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Custom/Library/Statistic/CES/1_NSA_CES_Illinois_MSAs_Jobs_2000_to_Current.XLS.
- "Other Services" includes a wide range of activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet Metropolitan Division are available at: <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=2509>.

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